HIGH SCHOOL — NEWS — SCHOOLS

WHS Students Talk Climate Solutions

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS and RACHEL WHITEHOUSE | CORRESPONDENT

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By Rachel Whitehouse

It's Climate Solutions Week in Winchester, and Winchester High S
(WHS) students (above left to right) Malia Soderland and Vita Bia

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kicked off the week by talking about climate solutions with residents at the Farmers Market.

Their message? We are not powerless in the face of climate change, but time is ticking.

“After living in Winchester for most of my life, I've noticed many residents feel powerless in the daunting fight against climate change,” said Winchester High sophomore Vita Bialiauskaya. “It’s important to me that people know how powerful collective action can be on a community level. We can all make changes; we just have to know to start.”

Malia Soderland, also a sophomore at Winchester High, wants residents to know that the Town of Winchester has a plan to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. “It will be a joint effort to get there, hopefully faster, as time is ticking,” she says.

Vita and Malia, who along with WHS senior Maddie Kolberg also work with the Town of Winchester’s Climate Action Advisory Committee, have put their desire to make a difference into action at WHS.

They co-lead a WHS climate action club called Sunrise Winchester. “We’re joining forces with the Sunrise Movement to make a positive impact at WHS,” says Maila. The Sunrise Movement is a national youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process.

According to Vita, Sunrise Winchester is working to implement a Sunrise Movement campaign that “aims to make Winchester High a more sustainable and climate-resilient environment.” The campaign has a series of specific recommendations. These include energy efficient buildings, sustainable lunches, climate disaster plans, pathways to green jobs, and climate curriculum. Sunrise Movement has mobilized students i hundreds of schools across the country.

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Despite the daunting realities of the climate crisis, Malia and Vita both talk about making a difference in positive terms.

“I'm passionate about creating a positive impact in Winchester and believe in the power of collective action to drive transformative change through education and advocacy,” Vita says.

“I’m motivated to play my part in making a difference in the climate crisis,” says Malia. “I’ve seen firsthand the dramatic impact of climate change on the air quality in India, where my extended family lives. And we’re seeing extreme weather events and other harmful effects of climate change picking up here in the US as well,” Malia continued. “The science is clear that if we don’t make every effort to mitigate CO2 emissions, the whole planet will face massive challenges in the next couple of decades alone, threatening our health and well-being and quality of life.”

To learn more about Winchester’s Climate Action Plan, and what residents can do to help Winchester meet its climate goals, visit the Town of Winchester Sustainability Department.

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Winchester track & field athletes place at nationals

Athletes from Winchester High School's Track & Field team attended two national events over the weekend. Six athletes headed to Philadelphia for the New Balance Nationals while 11 others traveled to Oregon for the Nike Nationals. Both events were organized by the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation with sponsorships from

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Winchester track & field athletes head for nationals

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Winchester High School graduates Class of 2024

The Class of 2024 saw their high school graduation not only as a recognition of graduating after four years, but as a belated acknowledgement of graduating middle school in 2020 during the pandemic. "We're here not to celebrate just the last four years, but the last seven," Class President

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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